THE BALANCING POINT

Turning Up the Summer Heat

Summer is here. I know because the air has grown heavy and warm and the rains are finally beginning to return. The robins have gone, their melodious song replaced by the sound of children at play. The noble magnolia trees are bursting with fragrant white blossoms and the roadsides are illuminated in the gold and red blooms of the blanketflower. Yes, summer is here.

The heat of the Florida summer can be brutal, but while most Floridians begin to seek the cool comfort of air conditioning and swimming pools, Equinox is turning up the heat.

We have a lot to accomplish over the summer—*In Marjorie's Wake* is in the final stages of production and there are exciting premiere events to plan. We're working on a redesign of our website, as well as our newsletter, which will soon include live links and video so you can see just what we're up to.

The heat is on for Equinox, but soon we will taste the sweet fruits of our labors—and so will you, our friends and supporters. We can't wait to share them with you.

EQUINOX DOCUMENTARIES

Volume 3, Issue 2
Summer Solstice 2007

Inside this issue

Where's Bill?	2
What About Bob?	2
B-Roll Shooting Wraps Up	2
Volunteer Profile	3
Join The Adventure	3
Sneak Previews	4
What's Next For Equinox?	4
Special Thanks	4

We're Proud of Our Board Members!

Congratulations to four of Equinox Documentaries' board members for their extraordinary achievements.

Leslie Poole, Ann McGregor, Bob Giguere and Bill Belleville were each honored in their respective communities for environmental, academic or professional successes.

Leslie won the prestigious "Jack and Celia Proctor Award" from the University of Florida's Department of History for a graduate student doing research in Florida/Southern history. Leslie is pursuing her doctorate there.

Ann was selected to be a member of the national eight-person "Engines of Changes" team sponsored by Toyota to recognize racers who are passionate about sports and the environment and who are active in their community. A competitive runner, Ann was chosen from over 200 applicants.

Bob won the "Giant Stride Award" from the Orlando-based Cambrian Foundation for outstanding volunteerism, largely based on his educational videos and underwater cave-diving videography for the Foundation.

And Bill was awarded the "Al Burt Award" from the 1000 Friends of Florida for the "book that best portrays the challenges of growth and sustainability in Florida." His book, *Losing it all to Sprawl*, also won the Bronze Medal in the First Annual Florida Book Awards for Excellence.

Board Members (clockwise from top left):
Bill Randolph, Bob Giguere, Teri Sopp,
Leslie Poole, Ann McGregor and Bill Belleville

Where's Bill?

In late spring, Bill worked with Earth Echo International on an NPR project for the "Living on Earth" series in the Eastern Caribbean country of St. Kitts where Philippe Cousteau reported on the impending development of the wild volcanic peninsula of that island's southeastern peninsula. The radio documentary focused on sustainable building and landscaping that could have a positive effect on the offshore coral reefs by abating erosion and run-off from the adjacent slopes.

Bill continued his relationship with the St. Johns River Alliance in Jacksonville by agreeing to be on its Board of Advisors. He also appeared on camera for a short video funded by the RiverKeeper that examined how activities in the middle and upper basin of the river effect water quality in Jacksonville. Bill served as on-board interpretive guide for two RK cruises between Sanford and Hontoon Island.

Bill aboard the St Johns RiverKeeper

In Jacksonville, Bill and Dr. Gary Mormino of USF gave presentations about "sense of place" at a panel sponsored by the Trust for Public Land and Florida Humanities Council at the Ritz Theater. He spent some time interacting with students from UNF's Environmental Center on a field trip on the upper St. Johns River.

A new art book now working its way through the publication cycle examines the range of art and artifacts of the St. Johns river, from Paleo to the present. Bill reviewed the art co-authors Mallory O'Connor and Gary Monroe selected for the book and wrote an extensive introduction to it. Bill also continued to update Equinox's web journal about the making of *In Marjorie's Wake* with the intention of producing a Publishing on Demand book to be available when *IMW* premiers in the fall of 2007.

What About Bob?

Looking back always makes me tired when I realize just how much I've actually completed since my last column.

Let's see... I've completed the *How Shall We Grow* series (5 programs) for multiple broadcast partners in the Central Florida region and the *For Your Health* profiles (12 episodes) for UCF-TV. In addition, I completed a 60-minute program on Tax Reform called *Tax Reform Tangle* for the Orlando PBS station and I shot the pitch pilot for season #2 of *Cheerleader U* on WE TV (Women's Entertainment Network).

Breath...

New projects that I'm currently working on include a landscape series for www.TheLandscapeRenovator.com. It's called *Bob's Place* and yes, that's *my* house and yes, it's pretty nasty, but you can see it transform every month on the website as we show you landscaping tips you can use around your house. Hey, in 3 years, you won't recognize *Bob's Place*!

Also, I'm in pre-production for a *Fire Training* DVD series for Level I, II & Hazmat training nationally. I'll be directing the 2nd Unit and trying to stay away from any active fires we set! Filming is slated to begin at the end of June.

Finally, I'm hoping that we'll begin the 2nd season of *For Your Health* over the summer.

But most importantly, I've been busy moving *In Marjorie's Wake* along. I've completed 6 different trailers that we're using on our speaking circuit and I finally have all the video loaded into my computer, which will allow me to finally assemble our documentary. Bill has provided a stirring script and it's exciting to see it all come together for the first time.

You can keep up to date on all of my activities at my websiite, www.bgenesis.net.

Big Scrub, Springs, Archives Wrap up B-Roll Shooting

The final B-roll shooting for *In Marjorie's Wake* was completed this quarter by Bill and Bob who journeyed through time—and water—to make it happen. The time journey was at UF's Smathers Library Department of Special Collections where the team donned white gloves to sort through a treasure of old photos, newspaper clippings and the original manuscripts of Cross Creek and The Yearling. Images taken from that visit will help provide visual references in the larger story Equinox is telling via IMW.

Bill and Bob at Salt Springs

In the field, the pair visited The Yearling Trail near Silver Glen Springs in the Ocala National Forest to see the sinkhole, Jody's Spring, and other locales used by Marjorie during her research for her Pulitzer-winning novel. Members of the Long Family—prototypes for the Baxters—are also buried in a cemetery there. Underwater footage was gathered in and around nearby Salt Springs to help illustrate what Jennifer Chase saw there during her snorkeling segment in our original IMW: journey.

Shooter and diver Tom Postel joined Bill and Bob at Blue Spring on the St. Johns to capture more underwater footage of fish—like Florida spotted gar—and of the deep chasm of Blue itself. During the IMW field work, Jacksonville artist Jim Draper was interviewed at Blue and spoke at length about the impact of nature on art in the river basin. Blue has been visited historically by earlier artists, including William Bartram, who wrote of its mystique in Travels in 1791. Bob wrapped up the B-shoot by capturing Marjorie's "red bird," the cardinal, in his very own backyard, just as Rawlings had admired her cardinals at Cross Creek.

Volunteer Profile: Stacey Matrazzo

I was born and have lived my whole life in central Florida. A rare breed, some might say; an endangered species, *Floridus nativus*. I grew up in Titusville and Melbourne and eventually moved to Orlando where I've since remained.

Growing up along the coast was a wonderful experience. I spent many summer days—and even more school days—on the pristine beaches of Canaveral National Seashore. I was fortunate to live only a short drive from the salty marshes and mangrove swamps of Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and a short walk from the banks of the Indian River. Whether with friends, family or alone to escape the woes of teenhood, these were my regular destinations.

After high school, I went to community college and focused on graphic arts and photography, but it was the science classes—particularly those that centered on Florida's environment—that held my attention.

Eventually, I enrolled in Rollins College where I earned a BA in Environmental Studies. My experience at Rollins was amazing and confirmed my desire to work in this field. I am currently looking at masters programs and eventually would like to work as an environmental educator. In the meantime, I volunteer for a couple of non-profits, including Equinox, that support my concerns.

Outside of my work with Equinox, I am the editor-in-chief of a magazine for fitness professionals. I enjoy biking, hiking, kayaking and other outdoor activities. I am the co-founder of Vegetarians of Central Florida, a non-profit organization committed to vegetarian outreach in the metro Orlando area. I also love to read, write, dance and travel.

I was first introduced to Equinox through Rollins College—Bob as a professor, Bill as a speaker and author of several books that we used as texts, and *Wekiva, Legacy or Loss*, as a staple for quite a few of my classes. I also took a number of Leslie's courses, although I didn't know of the connection at the time. The final Equinox-Rollins coincidence was my graduation ceremony where my valedictory speech was followed by Clay Henderson's

continued on page 4

Join the Adventure!

Complete the appropriate sections of the form based on your selections below:

- ☐ Keep me informed about Equinox projects and events
- ☐ I'd like to volunteer my time and talents
- ☐ I have materials or contacts to share
- ☐ I am interested in corporate & other sponsorship opportunities
- ☐ I would like to use Equinox materials in my classroom or educational project
- ☐ Accept my donation of $ _____ for In Marjorie's Wake
- ☐ Accept my donation of $ _____ for Off the Map
- ☐ Accept my donation of $ _____ for Equinox Documentaries
- ☐ Other : _____

Name _____

Address _____

_____

_____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Method of Payment

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Bill Me

☐ Visa ☐ PayPal (invoice must be e-mailed)

Total Donation: _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Print and mail completed form to:

EQUINOX DOCUMENTARIES

1503 Robin Road
Orlando, FL 32803

Phone: 407.896.8756
info@equinoxdocumentaries.org

Equinox Documentaries, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation

Sneak Previews at Rollins, MKR Society Confab

Audiences at Rollins College's Bush Auditorium in Winter Park and at the annual Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings banquet and conference in Cedar Key were treated to sneak previews of footage from *In Marjorie's Wake* in April.

Bill and Bob gave the Rollins presentation, using live narration to bridge together the footage and stills projected using PowerPoint. Students and professors from environmental studies, English and history attended, as well as friends from the community. Afterwards, the pair were joined by Leslie Poole on a three person panel that fielded questions about the film.

Next, the three traveled to Cedar Key for the annual Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society conference where they gave a similar presentation to over one hundred members who showed strong interest in the film. The Society has been an avid supporter of Equinox's efforts to bring *IMW* to production. The Cedar Key trip was financed by an honorarium from Rollins College for the earlier preview event.

Footage seen in the preview included Jennifer Chase singing an original song, "Welaka," during the full-crew shoot on the Ocklawaha River, segments with artist, writer and former Rawlings neighbor Jake Glisson, and with the late Dessie Smith.

Both audiences were treated to stunning close-ups of wildlife and breath-taking sunrises along some of the wilder stretches of the St. Johns River. The next time the public views any footage, they will see it intact as a complete documentary at premieres around the state in November.

What's Next for Equinox

While the main focus will be post-production of *In Marjorie's Wake*, there are smaller projects that we continue to work on:

- Stay tuned for premiere events for *In Marjorie's Wake*... coming soon to a theatre near you!
- Continued fundraising for *IMW* "after broadcast" outreach and website initiatives
- Numerous speaking engagements to compliment the completion and release of *IMW*
- Improvements to our website that will highlight video and educational outreach elements of our mission
- Funder appreciation events for *IMW*

Special Thanks... For financial and in-kind contributions to In Marjorie's Wake and Equinox Documentaries, Inc.

Support for *In Marjorie's Wake*

* Patrons ($1,250 - $5,000)
  - Hanna Family Foundation
  - Lee Hanna
  - Michael and Leslie Poole
  - Clay Henderson
  - Karolyn "Sue" Foreman
* Contributors (up to $1,250)
  - Bob Giguere
  - Bill Belleville
  - MLM-Martin Architects, Inc.

Unrestricted Support for Equinox Documentaries:

* Major Partner Grants ($10,000 - $50,000)
  - Anonymous
* Patrons ($1,250 - $5,000)
  - Tonia Sledd and Stephen Miller
* Contributors (up to $1,250)
  - Bill Belleville
  - Leslie Poole
  - Garden Club of the Halifax Country

(Volunteer Profile continued from page 3)
commencement address. Equinox was everywhere!

I ran into Bob and Bill at a conference a couple of weeks later and have been involved with Equinox ever since.

For me, Equinox represents an ethos that is becoming increasingly more important as Florida's population grows and its natural areas are destroyed or diminished. There is such a disconnect between people and the natural world; I believe the best way to restore that connection is to give people a reason to care about nature and their environment, to show them up close what it looks like, who lives in and relies upon it—both humans, fauna and flora—and why it's worth caring about.

I know that who I am and how I live my life is profoundly influenced by the many natural experiences I've had and continue to have. The Equinox mission to help people better understand and appreciate our natural surroundings is paramount to changing attitudes and evoking that sense of place that so deeply shapes how we live. I'm very excited to be a part of this organization.